From: Bill
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:51pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

It was unclear whether the deadline for submission was midnight on 27 January or midnight on January 28, so please accept this submission.

The following is my opinion and understanding of Microsoft based upon over 20 years of experience with computers and electronics. I am not affiliated with any Microsoft competitor or free competition group.

Microsoft has significantly impacted my choices and capabilities in a TREMENDOUSLY negative way.   The impact includes monetary, quality of life, and purchasing freedom.   Due to their anti-competitive practices, I have been forced into using an inferior, OVERLY EXPENSIVE, and VERY COMPLEX product in my workplace and where unavoidable, at home.

Microsoft via either restrictive licensing and/or their initially "free" products coerces enough people using their product that they can later drive the market. People then must either use the Microsoft product or get left out of significant capabilities which Microsoft did not initially create, but which they have since taken over via either driving the real innovator out of business, purchasing the real innovator (or a competitor), or restrictive licensing. They have the money to do any of the three and have clearly done all of them more times than any other company in history. With only a few exceptions, MICROSOFT IS NOT AN INNOVATOR AND NEVER HAS BEEN.

Here are some (not exhaustive) examples of Microsoft's successes or at least attempts to own or control nearly all aspects of the computer/electronics industry (percentages or rankings are my guess and better numbers should be easily obtained and will likely be large or increasing):

Operating System (have nearly killed Apple) 60%
Word Processing (have nearly killed Wordperfect, killed Wordstar and others)   80%
Spreadsheets (killed Lotus, I7...) 80%
Presentation   80%
Project Management (hurt FastTrack) 80%
DB (measurable impact to Oracle, Sybase) 40%
Browser (have nearly killed Netscape, killed Mosaic) 79%
Audio Player (will hurt RealPlayer, Quicktime) ??%
Movie Editor (intent to hurt iMovie and Final Cut Pro) ??%
Network-MSN (hurt AOL, others) 30%
Information - .NET, Passport ??%
Servers (significant impact to Solaris, IBM, and HP Unix Servers)   ??%

PDA Pocket PC OS (significant impact to PalmOS vendors)   45%
Gaming - XBOX (targets are Playstation, Nintendo, others) ??%
Satellite TV - Ultimate TV (target TiVo) ??%
SW Development. - VisualBasic, C++, Classes (one area which they helped originate)??%
Web Development. - Frontpage ??%
PIMs - Entourage (target Now-Up-To-Date and others) ??%
Encyclopedia - Expedia (target Groliers, others) ??%
E-Mail SW- Outlook (killed Quickmail, hurt Lotus) ??%
Design - bought Visio   ??%
Java (attempted hijack of the Sun standard) ??%
News - MSNBC (CNN, Fox, others) #3
eGreeting Cards MSN#4
Expedia Travel #2
Webmail Hotmail Tied #1
Finance MSMoney#5
Housing MSN Home Advisor #4
PC Games AgeOfEmpires #2

As one can see, Microsoft has way too much control of too much of our
computing/electronics-related way of life. There are also numerous
other areas in which Microsoft has a least some interest and which we
are not yet even aware of. EVERYONE knows that once Microsoft decides
they want to dominate an area, there are few companies IN THE WORLD
which will be able to compete with them. This is due to NOT JUST THEIR
PRACTICES, but is also due to their ABILITY and willingness to
unethically (and illegally) leverage areas which they already have
control.

Please break Microsoft's applications development from their operating
system development. I believe this is the ONLY thing that can prevent
Microsoft from continued restriction of competition. I strongly look
forward to purchasing freedom and use of alternate operating systems and
applications, both at home and at work.

Thanks,

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Bill Eller
Greenville, TX